

# Electronic Waste Recycling - HB 258

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 1.22.07  
HB 258

Some Hazardous Chemicals in E-Waste
Lead
Mercury
Cadmium
Antimony
Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC)
Flame Retardants
Barium
Beryllium
Hexavalent Chromium
Dioxins and Furans
All of these chemicals present health dangers, and some are carcinogens.
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

## Hazardous Materials:

Electronic Waste (E-Waste) is made of substantial amounts of hazardous chemicals. For instance, a standard computer monitor contains 4 to 8 pounds of lead (Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation). Electronics contain hundreds of other chemicals, many of which are highly toxic (Montana D.E.Q.). Encouraging e-waste recycling diverts these hazardous chemicals from landfills, ensuring they are safely processed and putting resources back into our economy.

## Challenges of E-Waste:

E-Waste presents unique challenges to recycling. The complexity of electronics, made up of hundreds of materials and chemicals, place electronics recycling beyond the capacity of community programs. So far, the burdens have shifted to consumers, who pay an average of \$10-15 per unit to recycle, discouraging people who have to pay to appropriately dispose their electronics. This tax credit to consumers will offset the high costs of e-waste recycling

## Other States' Approaches:

Other states, in dealing with the problems of e-waste, have enacted a variety of different programs. These programs have banned e-waste from landfills and required hefty additional fees. In California, for instance, a \$6-8 fee is added to the price of certain electronics, while manufacturers in Maryland pay an annual \$5,000 fee. These additional regulations cause headache for everyday consumers and businesses, where this bill provides a gentler incentive for recycling without imposing fees and restrictions. Other solutions, like adding on a purchase fee or company-specific takeback programs, only address new items and does nothing to deal with the stockpile of e-waste accumulating in attics and basements.

"Solid waste handlers have just begun to see the 'tip of the iceberg' in electronics waste"  
--Montana D.E.Q.

## What this bill does:

- Create a tax credit for individuals and business for money spent on electronics recycling (up to \$500/year)
- Discourage hazardous waste placement in landfills
- Encourage economic growth in Montana's recycling industry (\$9 million/year in 2002)
- Extend the life of Montana's landfills
- Deal with the large stockpile of e-waste (e.g. computers in attics) in Montana homes
- Increase reuse of materials, preventing the waste of resources
- Create infrastructure to deal with electronic waste



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